

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

1 (Currently Amended): A test device for conducting an assay for the determination of an analyte in a sample, the test device comprising (i) a housing, and within said housing, (ii) a flow matrix allowing liquid to be transported by capillary action and having at least one zone with immobilized capturing agent capable of directly or indirectly binding to the analyte, (iii) a liquid container for sample liquid, (iv) at least one liquid container for liquid other than sample liquid in the form of an absorbent pad or sponge, and (v) separation means between the flow matrix and the liquid containers, wherein said separation means are mounted in a movable relationship with the liquid containers between a first position wherein the separation means ~~are adapted to~~ prevent liquid contact of the flow matrix with the liquid containers, and a second position wherein the separation means ~~are adapted to~~ permit liquid receiving contact of the flow matrix with the liquid containers.

2 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 1, wherein the flow matrix is flat and the liquid flow is lateral within said matrix.

3 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 1 wherein the flow matrix is a membrane strip.

4 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 2 wherein the liquid containers are mounted adjacent to a face of said flow matrix, and the separation means

comprise a flat liquid-tight element sandwiched between the liquid containers and the flow matrix.

5 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 4, wherein the liquid-tight element is at least partially removable from the housing.

6 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 5, wherein the liquid-tight element is a pull-out element.

7 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 1, wherein the liquid containers are mounted in a movable relationship with the flow matrix.

8 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one liquid container for liquid other than sample liquid comprises at least one container with flow liquid.

9 (Cancelled).

10 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 1, wherein the at least one liquid container for liquid other than sample liquid comprises a container for an analytically detectable reagent.

11 (Cancelled).

12 (Currently Amended): The device according to claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ at least one liquid container for flow liquid is provided upstream and/or downstream of said container with analytically detectable reagent.

13 (Currently Amended): The test device according to claim 1, wherein the flow matrix comprises a zone having said an analytically detectable reagent predeposited in the matrix or in an element placed on the matrix.

14 (Currently Amended): The test device according to claim 13, wherein the at least one container for liquid other than sample liquid comprises a first container for flow liquid is provided above and along said zone with analytically detectable reagent.

15 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 14, wherein at least one second container for flow liquid is provided upstream of said first container, and/or at least one third container is provided downstream of said first container.

16 (Currently Amended): The test device according to claim 13, wherein the at least one container for liquid other than sample liquid comprises a first container for flow liquid extending ~~extends~~ both upstream of and at least partially above and along said zone with analytically detectable reagent.

17 (Currently Amended): The test device according to claim 14 ~~13~~, wherein at least one second container for flow liquid is provided downstream of said first container.

18 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 16 wherein a barrier element extends above said zone with analytically detectable reagent to prevent direct contact between said first container for flow liquid and the zone with analytically detectable reagent, when said separation means is in said second position.

19 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 1, wherein the capturing agent immobilized in the flow matrix is a member of a specific binding pair and wherein the other member of the specific binding pair is part of or coupled to a reagent capable of binding the analyte.

20 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 19, wherein the said specific binding pair is antigen-antibody, hapten-antibody, biotin-avidin, biotin-streptavidin or a nucleic acid duplex.

21 (Previously Presented): The test device according to claim 10, wherein the analytically detectable reagent is labelled.

22 (Previously Presented): A method of performing an assay for determining an analyte in a sample, which method comprises flowing sample and assay liquids through a

test device according to claim 1, wherein the sample and assay liquids flow through the flow matrix to reach the zone in said flow matrix in a predetermined sequence.

23 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 22 for testing for an analyte indicating a disease selected from allergy, inflammation and autoimmune diseases.

24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 23 wherein the analyte is a specific immunoglobulin.

25 (Currently Amended): A kit for conducting an assay method, which kit comprises a plurality of the test devices ~~device~~ of claim 1 ~~in combination with at least one other assay component~~.

26 (Previously Presented): The test device of claim 5, wherein the liquid-tight element comprises a pull-out sheet or a film.

27 (Previously Presented): The test device of claim 8, wherein the flow liquid comprises a buffer solution.

28 (Previously Presented): The test device of claim 21, wherein the analytically detectable reagent is labelled by a fluorophore or a chromophore.

29 (New): The test device of claim 1, wherein the flow matrix is continuous.